

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS DAY AND EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE. Broadway—Enchantress—To
be a success.

BOWERY THEATRE. Bowery—Aladdin—Blind Nix
and the Law. The new comedy will be a success.
JACKETS OF BLUE. MARCHES OF MICHIGAN.

WALLACE'S THEATRE. Broadway—Laugh when you
can—A Gentleman from Ireland—Arthur Dodder.

BURTON'S THEATRE. Chambers street—Nice Young
Man—Apollo in New York—Mousetrap Maria.

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The European War—Fresh Complications—Mediation of the United States.

The treaty of alliance signed at Vienna on the 2d inst., between Austria and the maritime Powers, marks a new and more complicated phase in the Eastern question. The precise character and terms of this instrument will not be known until after its ratification, and it is therefore impossible to decide as to the correctness of the different versions given of it. We learn from one source of information that Russia is expected to accept peace on the basis of certain propositions to be presented by the allies in conjunction with Austria; and that if the former power refuses to accede to them, Austria will at once declare war against her. A delay of three months—some papers state of only one—however, to be allowed for Russia to signify her acceptance of them. Another and later account, received from Vienna by telegraph, gives under cover of a reservation, which throws great doubt over its correctness, a still more positive character to the treaty. Without entering minutely into its separate provisions, which will be found in another column, it is sufficient to state, generally, that according to this version of them, Austria engages herself to regard any further violation of the Turkish territory as a declaration of war on the part of Russia against herself—to reinforce her army in the Principality, so as to leave Omer Pasha free to act—and to forward a contingent to Varna to be employed against the Russians in the Crimea, if necessary should call for it; whilst, on the other hand, England and France guarantee, under all circumstances, the territorial possessions of the Emperor of Austria. There is said to be a secret article attached to the treaty, the conditions of which have not as yet been guessed at by those who pretend to be thus far acquainted with its general provisions.

Whatever may be the exact nature of this document, there can be no doubt that it is the immediate result of the late conferences held in Paris between the veteran and energetic statesmen whose views have so long influenced the foreign policy of Great Britain, and his political protégé and disciple, the French Emperor. Austria, according to all accounts, has been reluctantly forced into this treaty—in all probability by a threat that her refusal would be followed by the invasion of her territories, the unflinching of the revolutionary standard in Italy and Hungary, and the blockade of her ports in the Adriatic. In fact, in the desperate crisis to which the allies were reduced, by the continued failure of their efforts in the Crimea, nothing short of some extreme measure of this sort could possibly have revived the drooping spirits and depressed confidence of their subjects. The adhesion of Austria was of much more importance to them in a moral than in a physical point of view, inasmuch as her suspicious attitude has hitherto paralyzed all the operations of the war. Hence it is easy to understand the excessive exultation displayed by the English and French ministerial journals at the accomplishment of an event which has so much present importance for them, but which may yet prove a source of as great embarrassment as it is of momentary advantage. Until we have the treaty before us we cannot of course tell the exact extent to which Austria has bound herself; but of one thing we feel assured, that the cautious and skillful statesmen who direct her affairs have not failed to protect her ulterior action by reservations which will in the end probably render this treaty as valueless as so much waste paper. The shameless manner in which Austria violated the spirit of her last treaty with Turkey by her arbitrary and treacherous conduct in the Principality, shows how little importance she attaches to the faithful observance of her engagements.

Admitting, however, the hypothesis that she means to carry out seriously the undertaking to which she is said to have bound herself by this new compact, so far from simplifying the present difficult state of things, it appears to us likely only to complicate them still more. It will impart, in any case, an entirely new character to the war, and will raise a variety of fresh issues, all of them of greater importance than that which originated it. Turkish interests will be in a measure lost sight of, and the contest will assume all the importance and magnitude of a struggle in which the very existence of several European nationalities will be involved. For the present it will probably resolve itself into a strife for ascendancy between the leading German Powers, backed on the one side by Russia and on the other by the allies. From the heterogeneous elements of which her empire is composed, Austria is likely to prove in the end the greatest sufferer. She cannot be insensible to this fact, and we are therefore inclined to regard her adhesion to this new treaty as dictated more by her present apprehensions than by any serious intention of honestly carrying out its prospective objects.

In this conjuncture of circumstances, so opportunely favorable to our intervention, when the Powers already engaged in the war have become alarmed at the magnitude of its consequences, whilst those who are about to be involved in it are equally trembling for what the future may produce, it is to be hoped that Congress will lose no time in giving effect to the recommendations of the Committee of Foreign Relations, by sanctioning the project of mediation suggested by Mr. Clingman's resolution. If the present opportunity is suffered to escape, it will be long before such another presents itself. The question of a peace, honorable to all parties, or of a war, sanguinary, protracted, and universally disastrous in its results, can only be decided now. Can any mission be more glorious or honorable than that which we propose to ourselves of stepping in as peacemakers, with the hope of restoring tranquillity to the troubled and anxious mind of Europe, and stability and prosperity to its commercial operations? Here is a noble field for our embry statesmen in Congress to successfully distinguish themselves. We have lost, it is true, either by death or retirement, the great minds, such as those of Clay, Calhoun, Webster and Everett, which for the last half century have exercised so important an influence over our public affairs, and which would have gladly seized upon such an occasion for displaying their enlarged views and philanthropic sympathies; but we regard the present question as one eminently calculated to develop the same noble qualities, which now probably lie latent from the want of a befitting opportunity to bring them forth. Let, therefore, our young politicians, by their efforts in the cause of universal humanity and by their strenuous advocacy of this particular proposition, endeavor at once to advance their own reputations and the moral and political

influence of their country. Of the success of the project, emanating as it will from so important a body as the federal legislature of the United States, we entertain but little doubt. The European Power will gladly avail themselves of so favorable an opportunity for a peaceful and rational settlement of their difficulties.

Material Grounds for Preserving Friendly Relations with Russia.

The British press has been loud in its abuse of "America siding with Russia." As republicans, we have been accused of sympathizing with despotism, and enjoying its success over the so-called liberal powers of Europe. But is it so? We have certainly expressed our conviction that Russia must prove victorious in the end. We have also pointed out the advantages to be derived from maintaining peaceful relations with that empire, but in all this we have done no more than give an opinion, and a candid one, in a measure, the kindly feelings extended towards us by the Czar. From the supremacy of the allies we have much to dread—for war, to a commercial and progressive nation like ours, may reasonably be dreaded—while, on the other hand, from the supremacy of Russia we have much to expect. By the latter the right hand of fellowship has been held out to us, and we see no reason to refuse it, though its government be despotic and its emperor the enemy of our own immediate rival. Russia, as it were, to have just sprung into life, and is no doubt advancing fast along the path of greatness. We have now the opportunity of establishing with her a close commercial intercourse, which will be greatly beneficial to both countries, and, as we hope, be the means of spreading for the first time a liberal influence among her people. With her despotism we do not sympathize, and with the cause of the present quarrel we have nothing to do; but it is incompatible with our republicanism, and far less with our material interests, to destroy the friendly feelings at present existing between us.

Let us illustrate this last assertion with a few facts. At the present moment the earnest desire of the Czar is to connect by telegraph and railroad all the important points of his vast dominions. Hence the facilities afforded to Mr. Shaffner, who lately visited St. Petersburg, to settle preliminaries and otherwise further the grand enterprise of "placing a girdle round the earth." It is intended to traverse the Russian empire from the capital to St. Sika, and the line, throughout, will run south of sixty degrees, with the exception of a small portion, which diverges north, for the purpose of reaching Yatsouk, on the river Lena. It has also been determined to build 2,300 miles of railway—the principal road being from Moscow to Odessa. Iron is required for this—the native metal being too soft—and to procure it (the trade with England being stopped), the Czar must necessarily turn to America.

Again, he has seen the destruction caused among his troops by the screw ships of the allied fleet in the Crimea. Both at Eupatoria and the Alma, the English vessels as they lay along the coast, beyond the range of the enemy's guns, did fearful damage with rocket and bomb-shell. The Emperor has already been taught a lesson from experience. To be even with his opponents he must have a steam navy. The Russian pine is not to be compared with Great Britain's oaken walls, and the Czar must turn to America for timber and for ships. In working out her destiny Russia will, therefore, assist America in realizing her own. Nicholas has already shown not only a willingness, but an eagerness to import American enterprise into his empire, and neither our interests nor those of the republican principles we uphold require us to draw back. We know that a wide field has been opened to physicians, engineers, mechanics and manufacturers from the United States; and who can foresee all the numerous benefits that will be derived from such a connection, to the furtherance of liberalism in one country, and the progress of commerce in both? Nor is this all. We noticed some time since that the Russian boundary in Asia had lately been extended to the River Amour, which empties itself into the North Pacific Ocean. This new accession of territory, as large as the whole of the New England States, was at first neglected as unprofitable. But it was subsequently found to be a splendid tea country, and now the Czar wishes to throw it open to American trade. Protected by the Island of Sagalin from the ice which flows from the Sea of Okhotsk, the mouth of the Amour—navigable for four hundred miles—is open during the whole year. To the north is the far region of Kamtschatka, and the advantages of trade here are scarcely inferior to those recently acquired by the opening of Japan.

Are we, then, to throw away such benefits as these for an empty shadow? Surely not. Our admiration may be excited in favor of the heroes who toll and bleed and die in their country's cause on the frozen plains of the Crimea. As men, our sympathies may be especially roused for those whose Anglo-Saxon names sound familiar in our ears. God forbid that we should fail in doing every justice to the enduring courage of that race from which we ourselves have sprung. But with the cause of the war we have no concern; and with the result, it is to our advantage that Russia should preserve the integrity of her empire, and drive back her opponents.

THE LATE ARSON CASE—OUR FIRE MARSHAL.—On Friday last, Charles A. Peverly, previously found guilty of an attempt to burn down his own store at 147 Front street, was sentenced to four years and six months imprisonment at hard labor in Sing Sing prison. The trial in many particulars was one of importance. The prisoner had up to the commission of the offence, enjoyed a character of the highest respectability. He had numerous friends, and several able counsel were engaged to defend him. Yet all proved of no avail. Through the energy of our Fire Marshal no stone was left unturned; the proof was complete, and the ingenuity of counsel could raise no legal technicality by which their client might be saved from the grasp of justice.

This is the first conviction of any importance obtained under the regime of a Fire Marshal, and the fact is significant. Every one knows that, during the last few years, the crime of arson increased to such an extent that a general feeling of alarm pervaded the community. No one felt safe; criminals were seldom detected, and never brought to trial, and property was destroyed by bands of plunderers with the most barefaced impunity. We have, however, been relieved from this incubus. After several experiments were tried and had signally failed, the

suggestion was made and eagerly accepted by the people, that an officer should be appointed to investigate and discover, if possible, the origin of every fire. It is scarcely necessary to enumerate here the benefits which the city of New York has derived, and continues to derive, from the services of a Fire Marshal, who can devote himself exclusively to the duties imposed upon him. From the experience of only a few months, all are willing to admit the importance of the office. It has a moral influence over the community which should not be overlooked or disregarded. Whenever a fire takes place, and any suspicious circumstances are connected with it, a close investigation is held, and frequently, as in the Peverly case, a tangled web of crime is unravelled, which would otherwise have remained a secret for ever. The creation of this office has also the effect of producing greater care on the part of householders and occupants. It is a fact to be noted that in the present commercial crisis, distress has not been increased by the prevalence of large and destructive fires. This, at least, is a material benefit which comes home to us all. It is a benefit which other cities in the Union have observed and will profit by; for we understand that movements are already on foot to institute a similar office both in Albany and in Philadelphia. The present Fire Marshal of New York is an active, intelligent and efficient officer. His services to insurance companies, the city and the community at large have been valuable, and he has proved himself a relentless enemy to incendiaries. The trial and conviction of Peverly, which could scarcely have been procured without his aid, will be a warning to criminals and will restore confidence to the citizens of New York for the future.

THE LATEST NEWS.

BY MAGNETIC AND PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

Interesting from Washington.
CABINET MEMBERS—BUTLER AND RICH DEVELOPEMENTS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24, 1854.
The change in the Cabinet originated with Forney, who had received, in a letter from Buchanan, an assurance that "any step, in confidence, might take to get Forney out of the Cabinet, would meet with his approval." This letter was shown among others to Cushing, and it also contained the assurance of his (Buchanan's) early retirement to private life, and a censure on Sikes.

The particulars of this letter got to the ears of Forney, in spite of the cautious secrecy attendant upon all the diplomatic acts of Forney. Forney made known these facts to certain members of the Cabinet, and they in turn gave out the news. It soon got abroad that this impression, that Cushing was not a friend in the Cabinet would resign for London, to be succeeded by Buchanan. Your paper, I think, contained the earliest intelligence of this bit of news. To get popular feeling in its favor, Forney wrote to his confidential friends of the press, and solicited their aid in the matter, as did also Cushing. Forney taking care to reserve each letter or article as it came to his hands for ulterior purposes.

Now the story runs that Forney, at the supposed proper time, called upon the President with his documents and commenced proving to Pierce the unpopularity of Forney, and the necessity for an immediate change. Pierce took the extracts or letters, turned them over one by one, and before they had all been examined, Forney entered the President's room. Pierce, in his hand manner, handed over the documents to Forney, who taking them, enquired "what they were?" "Evanescent," said the President, "so I am informed, of your unpopularity with the people for the office of Secretary of State," which Forney followed up with the remark—"as written and procured and published by request of a person not far from your side." The extracts were returned to Forney, who left the room, having been caught in his own trap.

About this time there appeared in sundry papers throughout the Union severe reflections upon other members of the Cabinet, which, upon comparison, were shown to have been written by the same pens that made Forney's removal a necessity. Cushing and Forney are the supposed authors; and as general is the impression, that Cushing was not a friend in the Cabinet left him. There is not the slightest foundation for Forney's resignation, and so hope that Cushing can be gotten clear off.

FROM BOSTON.
OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS—THE MONEY MARKET—MORTALITY—ANOTHER FAILURE—THE WEATHER.

BOSTON, Dec. 23—Evening.
Christmas will be more generally observed in this city on Monday than heretofore.

Our money market was comparatively easy to-day, considering that notes due at the banks previous to Tuesday had to be met to-day. The rates of interest in the street were from 1 1/2 to 2 per cent per month, for good paper. The financial prospects in the city are brightening.

The health of the city continues good. The total number of deaths for the week was only sixty-four.

It is reported that Messrs. Rawson, Brigham & Co., dry goods dealers in Milk street, failed to-day, with liabilities of \$300,000.

The creditors of Messrs. J. W. Blodgett & Co., dry goods dealers in Pearl street, recently failed, met at the Court House to-day. Claims were proved against the firm to the amount of about one million of dollars, assignees were appointed, and another meeting of the creditors will take place soon.

The weather here continues cold and cloudy, with indications of snow. The sleighing in the suburbs is excellent, but is getting considerably worn down in the city.

FROM THE SOUTH.
NON-ARRIVAL OF THE SOUTHERN MAIL—SERIOUS RIOT IN ALLEGANY COUNTY (PA.)—REDEMPTION OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 24, 1854.
We have received no mail here south of Washington this evening.

A serious riot occurred in Allegany county (Pa.) yesterday, growing out of a meeting denouncing Thompson, the murderer of Miss Pharr. The citizens hung Thompson in effigy, when a large party of his friends arrived armed with pistols and knives, and attempted to cut him down. A fight then ensued, the citizens driving off Thompson's party, seizing their leader and riding him on a rail.

The redemption of the public debt at the United States Treasury last week amounted to \$858,350.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

Preparations for the Celebration in the City.
To-day there will be a general suspension of business among our citizens to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of the Messiah. The law courts will all be closed, and judges, juries, lawyers and clerks will rest awhile from their labors. The children in the public schools are to have a holiday, so that they may enjoy themselves without the fear of hard lessons before their eyes. The Custom House will be open only one hour in the day, as will be seen by the following:

NOTICE.—Monday, 25th inst., being Christmas Day, the Custom House will be open from 9 to 10 o'clock A. M., for the entry and clearance of vessels only.

HEMAN J. REDFIELD, Collector.
JOHN BOMBYN BROTHERS, Naval Officer.

Of course the usual festivities will be indulged in. The eating houses and restaurants down town will be deserted, as all who have homes to go to will share with their families the inevitable roast turkey and plum pudding rendered sacred by immemorial custom. Some will go to church and others will attend theatres, and all will amuse themselves and be as jolly as the hard times will permit.

It is to be hoped that the poor will not be forgotten; and that those favored with this world's goods will be able to look back on the 25th day of December, 1854, as a day hallowed to them by deeds of charity and kindness to the suffering poor.

As usual, our military friends will be out in full force to-day. Among other things the Rynders Grenadiers will attract a little attention. Last year they astonished the "natives," but this year they expect to amaze both natives and foreigners. They will parade under the command of Maj. George B. Hall; and after passing through the principal thoroughfares of our city, they will pass in review at the Park before Gen. Ward B. Burnett, of the New York Volunteers, and finish the day by a grand jollification at Tammany Hall.

For several weeks past the store windows along Broadway have given strong indications of the approach of the jolly, good natured Santa Claus. Here, in this one, is a collection of the rarest kinds of toys, set out in the most attractive manner to catch the eyes of all who have any juvenile friends to remember at this particular time. Horses of every description for the boys of all sizes for the girls, miniature houses, with furniture to match, marks to suit every taste, Jacks in boxes and Jacks out of boxes, snakes that wriggle and twist every way in the most natural manner, handsome china sets for small tea parties, beds for babies that always keep wide awake, and cry whenever they are required, with basin and all the other trappings of domestic life, and the most adorable babies. There are also a variety of birds, beasts, and fishes for such juveniles as feel zoologically inclined. The future Cuviers and Buffons may find among these curious interest, and the children will find here a source of amusement and instruction.

Here are elephants as small as mice, and mice larger than elephants, fish whose scales are warranted fall over dogs, and dogs whose scales are warranted fall over horses; lions and tigers with the most amiable looking faces; rhinoceroses forgetting all animosities at this particular time, and treating their visitors with the most friendly and unobtrusive manners; donkeys with ears out of all proportion; whales that are always spouting; cats at their legitimate occupation of catting their hands; and a host of other things that it would be impossible to name, so different are they from any ever classified by the naturalist, all herding together in the most friendly manner, and showing no signs of hostility in the shade. For those who have a taste for such things there are stag hounds, in which the stag is never overtaken, and the hounds are always keeping the stag at bay; and a host of other things that it would be impossible to name, so different are they from any ever classified by the naturalist, all herding together in the most friendly manner, and showing no signs of hostility in the shade. For those who have a taste for such things there are stag hounds, in which the stag is never overtaken, and the hounds are always keeping the stag at bay; and a host of other things that it would be impossible to name, so different are they from any ever classified by the naturalist, all herding together in the most friendly manner, and showing no signs of hostility in the shade.

Passing from the toy shops, which are generally surrounded by an eager crowd of youngsters, we next pass to the markets, where the eye, if not the stomach, is treated with a profusion of all the delicacies of the season. Vast piles of poultry and game are seen on every side—turkeys of marvellous fineness, and geese of portentous size, dressed and ready for the table, and adorned with Christmas greens. Not, indeed, that all the poultry are to be commended, for some of them bore every mark of extreme old age, and had a decidedly venerable appearance, but the great majority were carefully kept out of sight, or rejuvenated and adorned by their owners to compare with their younger and more tempting rivals. These things, however, are the staple of the season, and every known variety. All were busy—there might be hard times in Wall street or in Broadway, but the market Saturday, at least, never looked so busy and thriving.

To-day will be observed throughout the Christian world. It is only within the last few years that much notice has been taken of our people, and the anniversary of the birth of our Saviour has been celebrated with the most solemnity. On the 25th day of December, as the nights were too cold for shepherds to be tending their flocks on the mountain side, as related in the second chapter of St. Luke. The objection would hold good were it not that the weather is as cold in Palestine as it is in New York or New England. But leaving this vexed question to misty old commentators, there is a question to be asked, whether it is a great institution. At least the little folks think so, and it is to be hoped they have not over estimated its value.

It may be refreshing to our readers to know that the weather was not always as cold as Christmas times as it has been this year. We are informed that sixty years ago, in Salem, Massachusetts, the children of the town, was launched on Christmas day, with the thermometer at 80 degrees, and that it was so warm that the children and boys were in swimming, and that the children of the town, was launched on Christmas day, with the thermometer at 80 degrees, and that it was so warm that the children and boys were in swimming, and that the children of